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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application:

Branch et al.

Serial No. 10/792,358

Filed March 3, 2004

INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS FOR
MINIMALLY INVASIVE TISSUE
RETRACTION AND SURGERY

)
)
) Before the Examiner
)
)

) Group Art Unit
)

) Atty Docket No. 4002-3471/PC689.02
)

) July 8, 2004
)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure embodied in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 1.98,
Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the items of information listed
on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant. This information has
not been previously submitted in this application, and has not been heretofore cited by the
examiner. Copies of non-US patent references have not been enclosed since the items
were previously submitted or cited in parent application Ser. No. 10/180,658 filed on
June 26, 2002.

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Douglas A. Collier
Name of Registered Representative.

Douglas A. Collier
Signature

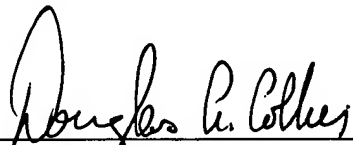
July 8, 2004
Date of Signature

Also cited in the '658 application was a copy of the International Search Report from a PCT Application No. PCT/US03/37729, which is a counterpart to U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/720,656, copies of which are enclosed herewith. The search report was applied to the claims in the '656 application. The ISR provides a concise statement regarding the relevance of the foreign language reference in accordance with 36 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i) in view of the claims in the '656 application.

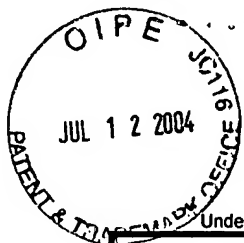
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to the patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

This Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, it is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items. Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/792,358
	Filing Date	March 3, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Charles L. Branch
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number 4002-3471/PC689.02

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or individual name	Douglas A. Collier Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP
Signature	<i>Douglas A. Collier</i> #43,556
Date	July 8, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
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Typed or printed name	Douglas A. Collier
Signature	<i>Douglas A. Collier</i>
Date	July 8, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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